AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A transposon nucleic acid comprising a genetically engineered translation stop signal in three reading frames at least partly within a transposon end sequence recognised by a transposase.

2. (Original) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein said transposon contains a selectable marker and/or a reporter gene.

3. (Original) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said transposon end sequence is Mu or Tn7 end sequence.

4. (Currently amended) The transposon nucleic acid according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein said transposon end sequence is a transposon end binding sequence.

5. (Original) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim 3, wherein Mu end sequence is Mu R-end binding sequence.

6. (Original) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim 5, wherein said transposon sequence is set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:5.

7. (Original) The transposon nucleic acid according to claim 3, wherein said transposon sequence is set forth in SEQ ID NO:7.

8. (Currently amended) The transposon nucleic acid according to ~~any one of the preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said transposon further contains a genetically engineered restriction enzyme site.

9. (Original) Method of producing a deletion derivative of a polypeptide coding nucleic acid comprising the steps of:
(a) performing a transposition reaction in the presence of a target nucleic acid containing a polypeptide coding nucleic acid of interest and in the presence of a transposon containing a genetically engineered translation stop signal sequence in three reading frames at least partly within a transposon end sequence recognised by a transposase, (b) recovering a target nucleic acid having said transposon incorporated in said protein coding nucleic acid.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9 further comprising a step of (c) expressing said protein coding nucleic acid having said transposon incorporated.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said transposon comprises ~~the~~ a transposon nucleic acid ~~of any one of claims 2-8~~ comprising a genetically engineered translation stop signal in three reading frames at least partly within a transposon end sequence recognised by a transposase, wherein said transposon contains a selectable marker and/or a reporter gene.

12. (Currently amended) A kit for producing deletion derivatives of polypeptide coding nucleic acids comprising the transposon nucleic acid of ~~any one of claims 1-8~~ claim 1.

13. (Currently amended) Use of the transposon nucleic acid of ~~any one of claims 1-8~~ claim 1 for producing deletion derivatives of polypeptide coding nucleic acids.